GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:385
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
FRAUD IN PURCHASING OF SLEEPERS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether frauds of one kind or the other have been going on in the Railways with the connivance of the railway authorities and many of them are under investigation after lapse of years;

(b) if so , the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has since enquired into sleeper scam and submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to eradicate all sorts of irregularities from the Railways and to make its working transparent?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) No, Sir. However, if there is any complaint the same is investigated by the Railway Vigilance or by the CBI.

CBI can investigate the matter either on suo-motto basis or on the specific references made by the Railways

(b) Does not arise. However, in one case CBI iscurrently investigating irregularities in the procurement of wooden sleepers. A reference has also been made in Sep, 2000 to look into the irregularities in the procurement of HTS wire, which is used in concrete sleepers.

(c) & (d) CBI had earlier investigated some irregularities inthe procurement of High Tensile Steel wire on the basis of the case registered by them in the year 1997 but the case was closed after investigation and the report was submitted by the CBI in Nov.2000. However, in the mean time, on the basis of the reports in print media, involving allegation of corruption in the procurement of sleepers, a reference was made to CBI in Sept,2000 to enquire into the matter.

(e) Regular preventive checks are carried out to detect any irregularity and suitable action is taken to make working transparent.